

improve the administration of the Museum as a whole and I cannot do better than quote what his successor, the late Dr. Annandale, wrote regarding the condition in which he left the Trustees' office on his retirement: 'The admirable organization of his office, which enabled his successor to take up the threads of routine mechanically, is another matter for which it is impossible to be too grateful: although changes necessarily take place as the Museum grows and develops, the ground-work will always be that constructed by Col. Alcock, too often without recognition, and in spite of obstacles of which nothing was known beyond the Museum walls.' To popularise the Museum and make it possible for the lay public to understand the exhibits Col. Alcock wrote a series of very handy and interesting guide-books. These guide-books and the *Naturalist in Indian Seas* published in 1902 are outstanding examples of Col. Alcock's erudition and perspicuity, while the literary style of these books 'in which the strong infusion of Shakespeare and other Elizabethan authors is never pedantic, never frivolous, and never dull', adds to their charm.

No account of Col. Alcock's zoological work in India will be complete without a reference to his connection with the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He joined the Society in 1888 and continued as an active member till 1906 when he left India on leave preparatory to retirement. He was elected the Natural History Secretary of the Society in 1894, General Secretary in 1895, Vice-President in February 1901, and in 1911 was elected as an Honorary Fellow.

For his researches on the marine zoology of India he received the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of Aberdeen in 1904, and was awarded the Barclay Memorial Medal by the Asiatic Society of Bengal in 1907. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1901, and was a corresponding member of the Zoological Society of London, and of the Netherlands Zoological Society, and an Honorary Member of the California Academy of Sciences, Philadelphia. His services in the Indian Museum were recognised in 1903 by the grant of the title of C.I.E.

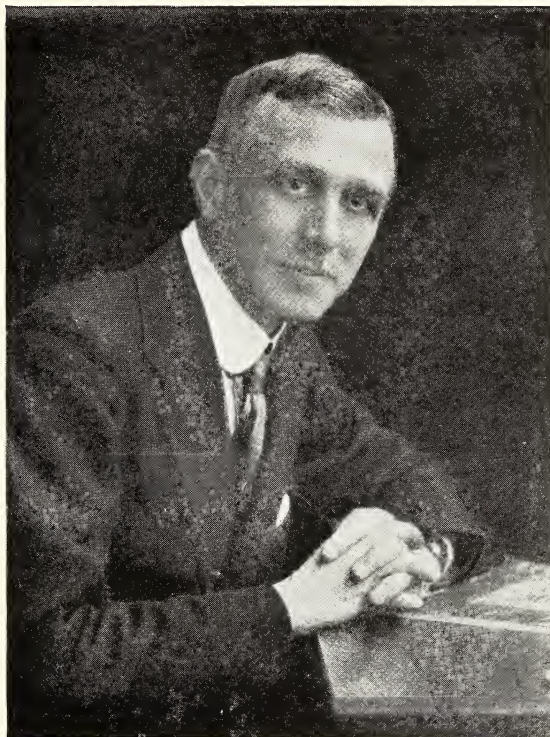
A list of his publications on Indian Zoology was published in the *Records of the Indian Museum*, vol. ii, pp. 4-9.

B. P.

LT.-COL. J. STEPHENSON, C.I.E., F.R.S.

Lt.-Col. John Stephenson, C.I.E., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.R.S.E., I.M.S. (Retd.) died on 2nd February, 1933, of a heart attack in his 62nd year after a very distinguished career as a medical man, zoologist and educationist and as a student of Oriental literature.

Colonel Stephenson was born in 1871 at Padilham, Lancashire, and was educated at the Burnley Grammar School and the University of Manchester. In Manchester he had a very distinguished career in zoology and medicine. After qualifying as a doctor



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(Born 1871; died 2nd February 1933).

Stephenson acted for a time as the House Surgeon in the Manchester Royal Infirmary and the London Hospital for the Diseases of the Chest till in 1895 he passed the competitive examination for the Indian Medical Service. For the first five years of his service in India he was on military duty and saw active service with the North-West Frontier Expedition of 1897. He was posted as a medical officer on plague duty in the Punjab in 1900, and up to 1906 served as a Civil Surgeon in Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Ambala and other places. Early in 1906 he went on leave and passed the Fellowship examination of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, with a view to appointment as Professor of Surgery in the Lahore Medical College. Fortunately for the study of zoology in India, the recent experiment of the transfer of the teaching of pure science subjects, like botany and zoology, from the Medical College to the Government College, Lahore, had not, for want of properly qualified teachers, proved the success that its initiators had hoped. The then Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Sir Denzil Ibbetson, who was a personal friend of Colonel Stephenson, knew that Stephenson had studied zoology in Manchester under the famous professor A. Milnes Marshall, and knowing Stephenson's capacity as an organiser and worker, he prevailed on him to undertake the duties of the recently created professorship of biology in the Government College, Lahore. He held this position till 1912 when, in addition to being the Professor of Zoology, he was appointed Principal of the Government College, Lahore. He retired from service in India in September 1921, and went over to Edinburgh where he was appointed Lecturer in zoology in the University. In November 1929 he left Edinburgh for London and till shortly before his death he used to carry on zoological researches in the British Museum of Natural History as an unofficial worker.

On his appointment as Professor of biology in 1906 Stephenson, who had been out of touch with zoology for nearly eleven years, started earnestly to brush up his knowledge of the subject and bring it up to date. Though he had a fairly good teaching museum at his disposal there was neither a properly equipped laboratory nor any library worth the name in the Government College, Lahore. He was, however, able to get together before long a first-rate teaching museum, a very good working library and by 1914 had succeeded in having a new biological laboratory built for the institution in which he was working. As a result of his labours, zoological instruction in Lahore attained a very high standard in a few years and he was able to found a very productive school of zoology in the Government College. Several students from his laboratory, in whom he instilled the faculty of critical work and careful investigation from the very beginning, are now holding influential zoological positions throughout the country, and it was solely due to his initiative and interest that a really flourishing school of zoological research was established in Lahore. His tenure of office was marked by conspicuous success as a teacher, while his administrative qualities were responsible for making the institution under his charge into a really first-rate place of instruction. He also took a very active interest in the affairs of the Punjab University and